8. (Once Amended) The transducer of claim 1 wherein the prestrain is anisotropic.

10. (Once Amended) A device for converting between electrical energy and mechanical energy, the device comprising:

an electroactive polymer having a plurality of active areas, the plurality of active areas comprising:

a first active area having at least two first active area electrodes and a first portion of the electroactive polymer arranged in a manner which causes the first portion to deflect in response to a change in electric field provided by the at least two first active area electrodes and/or arranged in a manner which causes a change in electric field in response to deflection of the first portion,

a second active area having at least two second active area electrodes and a second portion of the electroactive polymer arranged in a manner which causes the second portion to deflect in response to a change in electric field provided by the at least two second active area electrodes and/or arranged in a manner which causes a change in electric field in response to deflection of the second portion; and

a substantially rigid member coupled to a third portion of the electroactive polymer,

wherein the electroactive polymer is elastically pre-strained.

11. (Once Amended) The device of claim 10 wherein prestrain is anisotropic.

14. (Once Amended) The device of claim 13 wherein the length of an attachment between the substantially rigid member and the polymer in a direction perpendicular to a desired motion of the first active area is greater than 50% of a linear dimension of the first active area perpendicular to the desired motion of the first active area.

15. (Once Amended) A method for using an electroactive polymer comprising a first active area and a second active area, the first active area having at least two first active area electrodes and a first portion of the electroactive polymer, the second active area having at least two second active area electrodes and a second portion of the electroactive polymer, the method comprising:

prestraining the electroactive polymer;

providing a change in electric field to the at least two first active area electrodes; and

providing a change in electric field to the at least two second active area electrodes.

Please CANCEL independent claim 32.

33. (Once Amended) A device for converting between electrical energy and mechanical energy, the device comprising:

an elastically prestrained electroactive polymer having a plurality of active areas, the plurality of active areas comprising:

a first active area having at least two first active area electrodes and a first portion of the electroactive polymer arranged in a manner which causes the first portion to deflect in response to a change in electric field provided by the at least two first active area electrodes and/or arranged in a manner which causes a change in electric field in response to deflection of the first portion,

a second active area having at least two second active area electrodes and a second portion of the electroactive polymer arranged in a manner which causes the second portion to deflect in response to a change in electric field provided by the at least two second active area electrodes and/or arranged in a manner which causes a change in electric field in response to deflection of the second portion;

a substantially rigid member having a first segment and a second segment, the first segment coupled to a third portion of the electroactive polymer, the second segment capable of motion assisted by deflection of the first portion of the polymer and/or capable of motion that causes a change in electric field in the first portion of the polymer; and

a frame coupled to a fourth portion of the polymer.

Please ADD independent claim 37.

37. (New) A method for using an electroactive polymer comprising a first active area and a second active area, the first active area having at least two first active area electrodes and a first portion of the electroactive polymer, the second active area having at least two second active area electrodes and a second portion of the electroactive polymer, the method comprising:

providing a change in electric field to the at least two first active area electrodes;

providing a change in electric field to the at least two second active area electrodes; and

mechanically deflecting the first portion after the change in electric field has been provided, wherein the mechanical deflection after the change in electric field has been provided increases the electrical field between the at least two first active area electrodes.

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 are rejected. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 33 have been amended. Claim 37 has been added. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the